

## **Chatham Community Garden**

The Chatham Community Garden is preparing for the 2015 gardening season, located at 87 Woodland Road, just east of Madison.

The Community Garden Advisory Committee oversees the operation of the Garden, including the governing rules for the Garden. A copy of the Chatham Community Garden Rules is attached. They are typical of the rules utilized by community gardens in the U.S. All gardeners are expected to keep their own plots in good order and volunteer for assignments for the benefit of the whole garden community.

The Chatham Community Garden has three different sized plots: full sized plots at 10 ft. by 10 ft. (\$35 Fee), half-sized plots at 5 ft. by 10 ft. (\$18 Fee), and quarter sized plots at 5 ft. by 5 ft. (\$10 Fee).

If you are interested in having a Garden Plot for the 2015 gardening season, whether you are an Existing Plotholder, Wait List Applicant, or a New Applicant, this application needs to be received **no later than December 31, 2014** at your respective Municipal Building:

1. For Chatham Borough Residents:  
Janice Piccolo  
Borough Hall  
54 Fairmount Avenue  
Chatham, NJ 07928
2. For Chatham Township Residents:  
Greg LaConte  
Chatham Township Administrative Offices  
58 Meyersville Road  
Chatham, NJ 07928

After the **December 31, 2014** application deadline passes, the Garden Committee will determine how many garden plots will be available for the coming gardening season and allocate available plots in accordance with the attached Garden Rules. Wait List Applicants and New Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been assigned a garden plot. Existing Plotholders, and those Wait List Applicants and New Applicants assigned a new plot, must send in a check for the annual Garden Fee within 30 days of notification. Those not selected in the lottery will be put on a waitlist and accommodated as soon as possible.

**We welcome all applications, but before sending one in please understand that having a garden plot requires:**

- **A substantial time commitment needed to devote to developing and maintaining your own plot**
- **Mandatory volunteering for the benefit of the community garden: 6 hours for a 10x10, 3 hours for a 5x10, and 1 ½ hours for a 5x5**
- **An expenditure of money on essentials needed for your plot (in addition to the modest annual garden fee)**
- **Compliance with the Chatham Community Garden Rules**

---

## **Chatham Community Garden Application**

**Please fill in the following information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Chatham Borough resident \_\_\_\_\_ Chatham Township resident \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (please print clearly)

-----  
Are you an Existing Plotholder: Yes \_\_\_\_/No \_\_\_\_

If yes, what size plot did you have last year: Full (10x10) \_\_/Half (5x10)\_\_/Quarter (5x5) \_\_\_\_

Do you want to change the size of your plot: No \_\_\_\_/Yes \_\_\_\_

If yes (and a different size plot is available), what size plot would you like next year: Full (10x10) \_\_/Half (5x10)\_\_/Quarter (5x5) \_\_\_\_

If you are a Wait List Applicant or a New Applicant, what size plot would you prefer: please indicate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices:

Full (10 x 10: \$35 Fee) \_\_\_\_\_

Half (5 x 10: \$18 Fee) \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter (5 x 5: \$10 Fee) \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Volunteer jobs preferred:

Communications \_\_\_\_\_

Community outreach \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Fencing \_\_\_\_\_

Food donation program \_\_\_\_\_

Food Pantry \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Shepherds (Rules) \_\_\_\_\_

Irrigation/plumbing \_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

Pest control \_\_\_\_\_

Public Relations \_\_\_\_\_

Signs \_\_\_\_\_

Test plots/propagation \_\_\_\_\_

Tools \_\_\_\_\_

Weather data \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Please read the following Statement and sign in the space provided below:**

Neither Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, nor the Community Garden Committee will be responsible for any accidents, injuries, damages, theft, damage to, loss of, or replacement of any belongings, equipment, materials, tools, or plantings. I therefore agree to hold harmless and indemnify Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, and the Chatham Community Garden Committee for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden by me or any of my guests. There is no security for any personal belongings. Failure to follow any garden or public area rules and regulations, after reasonable attempts to notify Gardener, may result in loss of your gardening plot. The Gardener may seek to re-establish gardening privileges, but will be asked to stay out of the gardening area until the issue is resolved. The Gardener will not be eligible for any refund or reimbursement for any seed, plantings, or other materials left at the gardening site. By signing below you acknowledge that you have read and understand the above Statement and will abide by the Chatham Community Garden Rules.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact us with any questions by e-mail at: [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com)

For Office Use Only:

Gardener has been assigned plot # ☐

No plot available: applicant will be placed on waitlist ☐

# **Chatham Community Garden**

## **- General Information, Garden Rules, and Garden Etiquette -**

WE'RE NOT JUST GROWING PLANTS... WE'RE GROWING COMMUNITY!

The goal of the Chatham Community Garden is to provide an area for individuals and families to grow a garden, to build and nurture community friendships, and to share and grow gardening skills. The information provided below will help ensure that all gardeners have a successful and enjoyable gardening season.

### **General Information**

- The Chatham Community Garden is located at Woodland Park, just east of Madison on Woodland Road. Parking is available at the site.
- Garden plots are available in three different sizes: 10x10, 5x10, and 5x5. The garden will have water spigots and a perimeter deer fence with gates.
- Annual Fees for a single plot are as follows: \$35.00 for 10x10, \$18 for 5x10, and \$10 for 5x5.

### **Annual Allocation of Garden Plots**

- In December of each year, Existing Plotholders will be notified that if they wish to garden again during the upcoming gardening season, they will be required to send in an Application and check for the annual Garden Fee by December 31st.<sup>1</sup> Persons that are on the current Wait Lists maintained by Chatham Township and Chatham Borough will also be notified that they must send in a Garden Application by December 31st if they still would like to be allocated a garden plot. In addition, appropriate media notices will be released advising Chatham Township and Chatham Borough residents that Applications are being accepted for garden plots for the upcoming gardening season and that depending on how many Existing Plotholders return from the prior gardening season, new garden plots may be available.
- After the application deadline passes, the Garden Committee will determine how many plots will be available for the upcoming gardening season. Existing Plotholders who indicated in their application a desire to move to a larger or smaller plot will be accommodated first. If necessary, a lottery will be held to allocate different plot sizes to these Existing Plotholders. The Garden Committee will then allocate available plots to applicants that are on the existing Wait Lists that are maintained by Chatham Township and Chatham Borough, based on the application's date-stamped place on the Wait List. Finally, the Garden Committee will allocate any remaining plots to New Applicants, again based on the applicant's date-stamped application.<sup>2</sup>
- Existing Plotholders requesting a change in plot size will be notified as to whether or not they have been assigned a different plot size. Wait List Applicants and New Applicants will be notified as to whether or not they have been assigned a new plot. Existing Plotholders that requested a change in

---

<sup>1</sup> **PLEASE NOTE: Existing Plotholders requesting a change in plot size should not send a check in for their plot until they are notified of the plot size they have been allocated.**

<sup>2</sup> (a) Civic organizations will be given priority in the allocation of garden plots to maximize the number of residents who get to use the garden.

(b) Children under 18 may be allocated a plot, but a Parent must submit the Application on the child's behalf and take full responsibility for supervising the child's gardening activities during the gardening season.

plot size, and those Wait List Applicants and New Applicants assigned a new plot, must all send in a check for the annual Garden Fee within 30 days of notification. Those Wait List Applicants and New Applicants not assigned a new plot will be accommodated off the Wait List as soon as possible.

- **“Our Accommodation Commitment”**: It is very important that all Chatham Borough and Chatham Township residents interested in the Chatham Community Garden be given an opportunity to participate in the Garden. In this regard, the Chatham Community Garden Committee makes a firm commitment to accommodate any person who has been on the waitlist for a garden plot for more than 3 years (including by downsizing or sharing of plots, lottery, or perhaps development of an additional location if demand warrants). The Commitment will be reviewed annually by the Garden Committee and if at any time it appears that this Commitment is not being met, it will be reviewed by the Garden Committee along with the respective Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Committee Liaisons and the respective Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Administrators, and appropriate action will be taken to remedy the problem.

## Garden Rules

Community Gardeners commit to observing the following rules, which are based on generally accepted rules of community gardens all across America. Not following these rules may result in the forfeiture of a plot.

- I will plant my garden plot promptly by June 1.
- I will provide my own seeds, seedlings, tools and other supplies. The garden may or may not be locked, so anything left in the garden is done so at the gardener’s risk.
- I will not use any pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers other than those labeled “Organic” (OMRI endorsed). For the health of our community, it is the goal of the Community Garden to have an organic garden using only natural weed and pest controls and other organic methods. The use of chemicals such as Miracle Grow and Round Up are prohibited.
- I will devote adequate time each week (estimate 4 hours per week for a 10x10 plot) to properly maintain my garden plot, including weeding. I will be notified if my plot is excessively weedy and will be given a reasonable period to clean it up.
- I will weed and maintain my garden regularly as weed seeds spread quickly in garden plots and beyond.
- Volunteerism: it is required that all plotholders volunteer for the benefit of the entire Chatham Community Garden in addition to the maintenance of their own plot. For 10x10 plotholders: 6 hours; for 5x10 plotholders: 3 hours; for 5x5 plotholders: 1 ½ hours. Examples of duties/tasks needed are listed on the Chatham Community Garden Application.
- I will make sure that plants taller than 4 feet are located so that they do not interfere with any neighboring plotholders. Any size plant that causes shade on a neighboring plotholder’s plants will need to be cut back by the plotholder within 48 hours after being contacted by the Garden Committee or it will be cut back or removed by the Committee.
- I will not plant invasive species such as mint, comfrey, horseradish, strawberries, etc., as they may spread to other areas of the garden.
- I will not extend my garden past the plot markers. I will be asked to remove plants that extend past the markers, and if not done within a 2-week period, plants may be removed without warning by the Garden Committee.
- I will remove all weeds and discarded plant material from the Community Garden and carry out all compost materials to a home composter or municipal site. All garbage must be carried out.
- I will keep aisles and walkways free of tools, stones, or other materials that would cause a hazard to others.
- I will maintain and remove weeds from the 18-inch strip of path surrounding all sides of my garden plot. This practice must begin by May 2 and be maintained throughout the season.
- I will hand-water my plot and will not use hoses, soaker hoses (or other irrigation devices) unless the committee determines temporary use of hoses are needed during extended and extreme dry spells.

- I will organically treat and/or remove diseased plants and pests as soon as they appear in order to eliminate disease and infestation.
- I will make sure that spent plants, weeds, and gardening tools such as tomato cages, plant supports, watering cans, etc. are removed by November 15th. Winter crop-producing plants such as leeks, celery root, carrots, beets, etc. may remain through the winter for harvesting, as long as gardeners remove them if they die. Gardeners who do not comply may not be invited to renew the following year.
- I will make sure that all discarded weeds & plants are taken offsite to my own garbage or compost.
- I will notify the Garden Committee at [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com) as soon as possible if I must abandon my plot.
- Pets are not allowed in the garden.
- The garden gate must be closed properly at all times to keep animals out.
- Commercial operations are prohibited.

## **Garden Etiquette**

- Introduce yourself and build a stronger community!
- Keep gardening activities to daylight hours. The Community Garden is closed from dusk to dawn.
- Do not borrow tools from another gardener without permission.
- Do not pick any planting from another plot even if you think that plot has been abandoned or neglected, unless authorized by the Committee.
- Please walk with care, and do not trample surrounding plants in other plots.
- Do not remove plot markers; if you are unsure of your boundaries please contact the Garden Coordinator.
- Children are welcome at the Community Garden; however, please watch them and monitor their activities so that they do not disturb fellow gardeners or their plots.
- Use personal music players instead of radios in the garden, and no loud cell phone use please.
- If you have a concern or issue with a gardening neighbor, please address it with him/her in a neighborly manner. If the issue cannot be resolved, please contact the Community Garden Committee at [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com).

If you have any suggestions or comments please share them! We are looking forward to many years of happy gardening and to growing gardening in our community.

You may contact [chathamgarden@gmail.com](mailto:chathamgarden@gmail.com) if you have any questions.